A ROMAN SITE IN THE CHURCH FIELD AT SNODLAND.

BY N. C. COOK.

Roman remains from the Church Field at Snodland have been recorded since 1844 but details concerning the finds have not been preserved. In the *Archæological Journal*, Vol. I, p. 164, Roach Smith mentions that he had observed foundations in the field and that the walls and flooring of a small room were visible in the bank of the river Medway. In his book, *The Wanderings of an Antiquary*, 1854, Thomas Wright records that a bath was said to have been discovered about forty years before and covered up without undergoing further injury.

The Church Field is now occupied by the site of Snodland Gas Works and some allotment gardens. Opportunity for further research to be carried out on this long recognised site was afforded by excavations in connection with structural alterations at the Gas Works. Financial assistance from the Society of Antiquaries and the Kent Archæological Society made it possible for one of the men trained by Colonel Hawley during the excavations at Ospringe, to watch the progress of the work and to preserve any objects of interest that might come to light.

Before the watcher had been engaged excavations had yielded, besides pottery, a terra cotta mask and a bronze buckle-plate of a rare type, found near a wall built of large Roman tiles. Many of the tiles are made out of local Gault clay and exhibit the yellow colour this clay assumes when burnt. The buckle plate has been described by Mr. Reginald Smith in *The Antiquaries Journal*, Vol. VII, and dates from the close of the Roman period in Britain.

The area excavated while the watcher was on duty proved to be somewhat barren. The finds were limited to
some pieces of shapeless foundation, a length of wall showing a flint course on the top of a footing made of two layers of chalk boulders, and some pieces of pottery.

Although the finds are not numerous, they do provide some indications of the date at which the building was occupied. Five coins have been found on the site, the earliest is one of Domitian, A.D. 87, and the latest is a small brass of Gratianus, A.D. 375-383. The other three coins fall between these two extreme dates. The only potter's stamp found was one of Frontinus, who worked at La Graufesenque in South Gaul during the second half of the first century A.D. Portions of a decorated bowl of red glazed ware, form 37 Drag. may be dated as early second century A.D. The dates afforded by the coarse ware pottery are late first, second and fourth centuries A.D.

On the evidence of these finds then, the site was occupied from the end of the first century to the fourth century. The objects, however, are so few that these dates must be regarded as provisional. Excavation of the rest of Church Field, now used as allotments, would doubtless provide additional evidence by which these figures might be checked.

POTTERY.

1. Terra Sigillata.

Decorated.

Four fragments of a bowl, form 37 Drag., one being the lower part of a panel with two gladiators fighting. Early Second Century.

Plain ware.

Part of the base of a cup, form 33 Drag., Stamp Fron.

Frontinus was a potter of the Flavian period who worked at La Graufesenque in South Gaul.

2. Coarse Wares.

Fig. 1. Head and neck of a one handled flagon of a fine, smooth red ware. There are also some fragments of the body of the vessel one eighth of an inch thick which indicate that it was an exceedingly well made pot. The cylindrical stepped mouth, cup shaped on the inside with a very small
vent, may be compared with No. 45, Ospringe grave group XIII which is dated A.D. 100-150. (A. C. Vol. XXXVI, plate 7.)

Fig. 2. Head and neck of a one handled flagon with stepped mouth, of rough yellow sandy ware. End of First Century A.D.

Fig. 3. Portion of a mortarium rim of the bead and roll type. Clay creamy in colour and comparatively soft. Second Century.

Fig. 4. Ditto, but the clay is much harder and darker.

Fig. 5. Mortarium rim of the Hammer Head type. Dark red clay. Fourth Century.

Fig. 6. Portion of a Poppy Head beaker with outbent rim. Smooth, black burnished ware. Early Second Century.

Figs. 7 and 8. Part of the body and the base of a beaker of Saint Remy ware. A graffito cross in the middle of the circular base.

Fig. 9. Base of a vessel of light red clay with a pinkish brown slip. Late Third or Fourth Century.

Fig. 10. Part of a pot lid of light sandy ware fumed black.

Fig. 11. Part of the rim of a straight sided bowl of coarse clay with a smooth brown slip.

Figs. 12 to 18. Portions of rims of straight sided bowls of fumed ware.

COINS.


[Obverse: IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM COS XIII CENS PER P.P.]
Bust of Domitian to right.
[Reverse: VIRTUTI AVGSTI.] In field S.C.
Virtus standing to right holding spear and parazonium.


MISCELLANEOUS.

The counter plate of a bronze belt buckle with two portrait medallions in niello. The ground between the medallions is ornamented with scrolls in "chip-carving" technique. This is described and illustrated in The Antiquaries' Journal, Vol. VII, No. 4, p. 522, and is here reproduced.
Bronze Buckle Plate.

Terra-cotta Mask.

FROM THE ROMAN SITE IN THE CHURCH FIELD, SNODLAND.
A terracotta mask of poor workmanship. The treatment of the hair and eyes especially is very conventionalised. The appearance of the back of the mask suggests that it formed part of a scheme of decoration.

A LIST OF EARLIER FINDS FROM THE SITE NOT PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED.

A floor of black and red tesserae uncovered beneath the allotments on the site of the Church Field.

Fig. 19. Small Bowl of hard brown clay charged with sand, showing traces of a pale slip. When found it contained a small brass of Tetricus.

COINS.

   OB. DIVO CONSTANTIO PIO.
   Head of Constantius, veiled and laureated.
   REV. MEMORIA FELIX. In Ex. Pln.
   An altar with fire kindled, between two eagles with outstretched wings.

   OB. DN. GRATIANVS AVG AVG.
   Head of Gratianus to right.
   REV. GLORIA NOVI SACEVLII. In Ex. Con.
   A military figure standing, one hand holding the standard of the cross and the other resting on a buckler.

5. Small brass.
   OB. VRBS ROMA.
   Rome helmeted to left.
   REV. Wolf suckling Romulus and Remus. Above, two stars. In Ex. T.P.
Roman Britain endured for over three and a half centuries, as long as the span which separates us from the English Civil War. Over fifty varied sites in our care reflect its story from the invasion of AD 43 to the flickering out of Imperial rule in the early 400s. Richborough Roman Fort and Ampitheatre witnessed both the beginning and almost the end of the Roman era: the very first Roman troops landed on this site, and it was among the very last forts to be regularly occupied. The jewel of our collection is Hadrian's Wall, begun in AD 122 and held for more than 250 years. Marching 73 mile Snodland. Quite the same Wikipedia. Just better. Lime working had been carried out at Snodland for centuries, but expanded dramatically in the 19th century, as building boomed. The firm of Poynder and Medlicott began quarrying on the Snodland-Halling border in the early 19th century and the company was taken over by William Lee in 1846. Others followed and the last one was built in 1923 by W L H Roberts at Holborough. The Roman villa in Church Field has survived quite well and has been partially excavated. Aside from the churches (see below), Woodlands Farmhouse on Constitution Hill is a Grade II* listed building dating to the early-mid 15th century. The Mulberry Cottages on the High Street were originally a classical Wealden hall house dating to c1450. Enjoying the sites in Rome, Italy. - Copyright Getty. Share this article. Families looking for enriching ways to experience past and present Roman culture can now enjoy it as part of a five-star luxury stay in the heart of Rome. Situated on a quiet street in the epicentre of the city, the boutique Sofitel Roma Villa Borghese is a former 19th century Roman palazzo, which is in walking distance of some of the city’s best known cultural landmarks and parks. While visiting the Trevi Fountain, Villa Medici and the Spanish Steps are a given in Italy’s capital, there’s so much more for travellers to uncover. From gladiator school to making your own gelato, here what else Snodland Historical Society is compiling portfolios about Snodland people who were in the services, particularly during the Boer War, WWI and WWII. We are asking for information about them: service records Buried Heliopolis War Cemetery, grave 4.B.22 Born 11 May 1907, son of Sidney Frederick and Edith Mary Ashbee of 2 Roman Villas, Church Fields, later 31 Queen’s Avenue; husband of Mildred of 44 High Street, Snodland; attended Brook St School from 7 Sep 1912 to? 2 Oxford Street, aged 33; buried Christ Church, Snodland, 13 May 1949; attended Brook St School from 27 July 1920. Similar documents. Locating the crash site of Lancaster HK663, 195 Sqn. Locating the crash site of Lancaster HK663, 195 Sqn.